



from the desk of
REPRESENTATIVE KATHY KREAG RICHARDSON

Dear Neighbor,

It's finally over! The 2010 General Assembly has adjourned, but not before passing several bills which should bring some financial relief to businesses and taxpayers across the state.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find more information about one of these bills which gives you an opportunity as a voter to decide in November of this year if you want the property tax caps placed permanently into the Indiana Constitution. In addition you will find information about the bill which delays the unemployment insurance tax. This would have been a difficult tax on businesses during these tough fiscal times.

As the session ends and the spring and summer months come, I am looking forward to all of the festivals and events our communities have to offer. It is a great time to bring your families out and enjoy some great music, food and all round fun.

Later on this summer we will be starting interim committee meetings in preparation for the 2011 General Assembly.

As always, please feel free to call me at 317-232-9824 or email me at h29@in.gov with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Kathy Kreag Richardson



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STATEHOUSE OFFICE

1-800-382-9841
1-317- 232-9824

E-MAIL ADDRESS

h29@in.gov

E-NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

www.in.gov/h29

MAILING ADDRESS

200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204



2010

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

KATHY KREAG RICHARDSON

WORKING TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN HOOSIER JOBS



I voted to support local businesses by delaying the Unemployment Insurance tax increase which would have increased taxes on more than 72,000 employers that own a small business that employs anywhere from 1-49 employees. This was not the time to add to this burden when we are working our way through these tough fiscal times.

To help create jobs, I voted for legislation that authorizes the use of public-private partnerships for the construction of the Illiana Expressway in Northwest Indiana and the Ohio River Bridges project in Southern Indiana. These two projects have the potential to create more than 10,000 jobs.

Other job friendly legislation I voted for was the New Employer Tax Credit which allows new businesses that locate in Indiana starting January 1, 2010 to receive a tax credit for two years equal to 10% of the wages paid for each newly created job. I will continue to support initiatives that make Indiana an attractive environment for job growth.

CONTROLLING SPENDING



Another focus I had this session was to make certain that there would be no new tax increases. Unlike Washington, D.C., I believe the State of Indiana is making prudent fiscal decisions. In my opinion, it is simply not an option to raise Hoosier taxes due to our state government's budget shortcomings. We first must live within our means. Increasing taxes should never be our first resort, but rather our last.



SUPPORTING SCHOOL FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

I voted to help schools redirect up to \$60 million statewide to help fill gaps that came as a result of the state funding reductions. I hope this additional money will offer some relief and that it helps with teacher job retention during these difficult economic times. Our schools are one of our best community assets, and it is important to fund them adequately and help them find ways to survive this fiscal crisis.



SUPPORTING HOOSIER VETERANS

I voted to protect veterans from debt collectors who try to collect from service members' disability benefits. I also supported legislation to ensure that all Indiana National Guard members returning from active duty service receive face-to-face care from a professional mental health provider if they need it to help with the stress of combat. These are just small steps, but very important ones to help honor the men and women who serve our country when they come home.



HELPING SENIOR CITIZENS

I supported giving senior citizens, and all Hoosiers, the ability to vote to constitutionally cap their property tax bills to no more than 1% of their home's assessed value. Additionally, it is now clear that senior citizens are able to receive both the senior citizen's property tax deduction and the supplemental standard deduction. I also voted to have courts work through established programs when appointing advocates for incapacitated persons over the age of 55.



CRACKING DOWN ON DELINQUENT CHILD SUPPORT

I voted to help families collect some of the \$2 billion in yearly unpaid child support payments. Individuals who win a certain amount of money at Indiana casinos will have their names checked against a database that contains the names of parents who are delinquent and have not paid their child support. If their name appears in the system the amount they owe would be subtracted from their winnings and paid to help support their child.

